

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL--U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Airfield at Asen	DATE DISTR.	17 July 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	3
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. The Asen military training field (N 42-40, E 25-12) is located approximately 12 kilometers west of Kazanluk, a center of the Bulgarian armaments industry, where among others the Caproni aircraft plant is located. The Air Force unit stationed there is allegedly subordinate to the Air Force Staff at Sofia, and is composed of 1,500 men including pilots and ground personnel. In addition, there are approximately 150 civilian workers employed there.
2. The airfield with the adjacent grounds covers an area of approximately 3,000 x 2,500 meters, and is situated alongside the Kazanluk-Kalofer-Karlovo single track railway line. The actual airfield is 1,500 meters long (north-south direction), and 800 meters wide. There is no runway, and the soil is loamy and grassy.
3. The prevailing winds are from the north, somewhat broken by the Stara Planina Range located directly behind Asen. The wind is stronger in fall and winter, and the sky is usually cloudy during that time. Snowfalls up to 50 centimeters deep may be expected from December through February, but do not last long.
4. the following personnel at the airfield:
 - a. Lieutenant Colonel VLAYCHEV; nominal commander of the unit and airfield; a Bulgarian and former resistance fighter;
 - b. Instructor KUPRYAKOV; a major in the Soviet Air Force; actually in charge of the airfield;
 - c. Flight Captain BORISOV; a Soviet; deputy to Instructor KUPRYAKOV;
 - d. Captain KOLEV; Bulgarian instructor;

25X1

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

SECRET/CONTROL--U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR EV	X	FBI		AEC						
-------	---	------	---	------	---	--------	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

SECRET/CONTROL---U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

-2-

e. Lieutenant ILIEV; and

f. Lieutenant STOYKOV.

5. Until the fall, of 1952, the following airplanes were based at Asen Airfield:

- a. Twenty-six twin-engine Soviet P-2 bombers and German ME-110s;
- b. Fifteen Soviet YAK-15s and German ME-109s; and
- c. Six Polish Tschajka (sic) and Wolk (sic) training planes.

A conversion to modern Soviet planes including an extension of the airfield will allegedly occur in the near future.

6. The following vehicles are located at Asen Airfield:

- a. Twenty-five Soviet and Opel-Blitz motor trucks;
- b. Three ambulances;
- c. Two fire trucks;
- d. Four tank trucks; and
- e. Five German and Czech passenger cars.

7. The airfield is surrounded by barbed wire on all sides except for the north. The gates at the west and east sides are guarded by two sentries, and at night, the grounds are also guarded by 2-man patrols.

8. The following legend refers to a sketch of Asen Airfield included as Appendix A on page 3.

- 1. Airfield headquarters and staff; two stories, with glass-encased tower.
- 2. Three plane-hangers; concrete buildings with rolling doors; in front of the hangers, concrete pavement 60 meters wide.
- 3. A repair hangar for minor repairs; for major repairs and overhauls, the planes are taken to the Caproni plant at Kazanluk.
- 4. Three 2-storey crew barracks.
- 5. A guard room in one of the barracks.
- 6. A kitchen and mess hall for crew.
- 7. A sick ward.
- 8. A water tank, approximately 50 x 25 meters in size, and more than two meters in height.
- 9. Two garages.
- 10. Three fuel tanks, above ground; capacity difficult to estimate, since they are probably partly underground.
- 11. Ammunition depots; 1-storey concrete buildings.
- 12. Underground bomb storage depots, each approximately 20 x 10 meters in size; concrete construction.
- 13. Antiaircraft battery with 76.2 mm. Soviet guns.
- 14. Antiaircraft battery with 88 mm. German guns.

The third battery is parked at the airfield and is not emplaced. The three batteries make up an Antiaircraft battalion of approximately 360 men, and firing exercises of the batteries are held regularly.

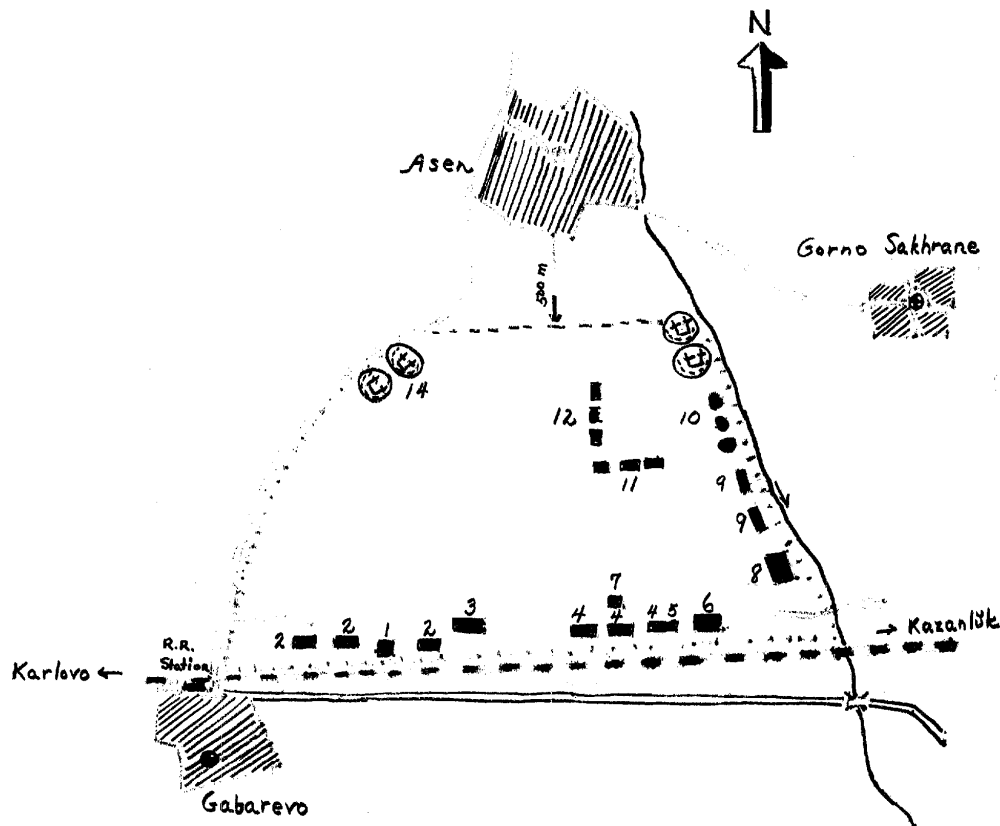
SECRET/CONTROL---U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

Appendix B

SECRET/CONTROL--U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

-3-



SECRET/CONTROL--U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY